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p. 275). Again, we read (p. 486) of "things that brought a distinct sense of familiarity, but no trace of anything like memory;" *cf.* the discussion following, and especially the wild-rose bush incident on p. 489. All this agrees admirably with the laboratory analyses of 'reduced' recognition or direct apprehension (*Outline*, p. 278), and of organic memory (*Ibid.*, p. 293).

The value of work of this kind can hardly be overestimated. It emphasizes the oneness of psychology, by whatever method we approach the problems of mind.

E. B. T.

FLUCTUATION OF TONES.

Mr. H. O. Cook found, in opposition to Dr. W. Heinrich, that liminal tonal stimuli show the intensive variations known as 'fluctuations of attention' (this *Journal*, October, 1899, pp. 119 ff.). Dr. Heinrich has just published a new investigation upon the subject (*De la constance de perception des tons purs à la limite d'audibilité*, in the *Bulletin international de l'academie des sciences de Cracovie*, Jan., 1900, pp. 37 ff.). He finds that pure tones (*i. e.*, tones free from all admixture of noise) do not fluctuate; the fluctuations in Mr. Cook's experiments were due to the presence of noises, "bruits à peine perceptibles."

Dr. Heinrich's result is surprising, in view of the introspective verdict that the tone, heard as tone, fluctuates. It must, however, be accepted as the last experimental work upon the subject. Meantime, we had ourselves planned (and have begun) a continuation of Mr. Cook's investigation, with purer tone sources. We shall return to the question as soon as a result, positive or negative, has been reached. It is needless to say that the issue is one of high theoretical importance.

E. B. T.

COMMUNICATION.

The following letter, written without thought of publication, is printed by the author's permission. It was the second addressed to the editor in response to a second urgent letter from him requesting a sitting with Mrs. Piper. It is printed here with the thought that it may interest and inform other psychologists who may seek interviews.

BOSTON, MASS., Feb. 24, 1900.

Dear Dr. Hall:

In reply to your further letter of Feb. 23rd, I fear that my previous letter, perhaps owing to its brevity, did not sufficiently explain the situation as regards Mrs. Piper. I shall describe it in further detail as it purports to be from the point of view of the communicators through Mrs. Piper's trance.

In the attempt to get proof of personal identity from the Rev. W. Stainton Moses, who died in 1893, I came into relation with certain intelligences that claimed to have been the chief spirit instructors of Stainton Moses for some years during his life time, and whom he called by the names *Imperator*, *Doctor*, *Rector*, etc. Imperator was alleged to be the leader and general supervisor in connection with the super-normal experiences of Stainton Moses, accounts of which will be found in the Proceedings S. P. R., Parts XXV and XXVII. Imperator, communicating through Mrs. Piper's trance, very soon claimed and assumed the supervision of the trances. I definitely agreed to this supervision. For a number of years prior to this time I practically

made such arrangements as I pleased as regards the introduction of fresh persons to sittings with Mrs. Piper. Imperator stated that it was impossible that the best work could be achieved from their side under such conditions, that Mrs. Piper's organism regarded as a machine had been "battered and worn," that it needed much repairing, that the utmost care must be taken as regards the persons introduced on the earthly side, and the persons allowed to use the machine from the so-called spirit side. For the purpose of securing proper conditions, Imperator claimed that they on their side could alone decide what persons should be allowed to communicate, as they alone could determine what conditions might be beneficial to, and what injurious to the machine. General experimenting by persons on this side was prohibited. Opportunities have been given for the introduction of fresh persons to the trance. These, however, have been few in number. The introduction of fresh persons at the present time has been absolutely prohibited. Imperator has stated that the conditions are such that it would interfere with the work which they have to do in improving the machine and in other matters if fresh sitters were now introduced. All this has been explicitly laid down without any doubt, and I am bound by my agreement.

This Imperator regime began at the latter part of January, 1897, and I refer you to section 7 of my report in Part XXXIII of our Proceedings, entitled "Recent Changes in Mrs. Piper's Trance," pp. 407-12.

During my year's absence in England, from September, 1897, to September, 1898, various fresh persons were allowed to have sittings besides a group of persons who were previously familiar with Mrs. Piper's trance. Later on, however, after my return here, a much closer restriction was exercised by Imperator. Only about half a dozen fresh persons were allowed to go at all during last season, and at the present time no fresh persons are allowed to be introduced.

I have had, I think, hundreds of applicants for sittings during the past year. I have had four new applications besides your own this week.

Several persons have had the opportunity of having sittings about once a fortnight, and Mrs. Piper goes into trance now usually only three times a week. It is probable that later on even this small group of persons will be restricted.

Briefly, once more then, the situation is that the matter at present is out of my direct control. I have agreed, so to speak, to let Imperator manage the machine. Absolutely explicit instructions have been laid down by Imperator that no persons shall be admitted to the sittings except as appointed by him. It is not likely that any fresh persons will be allowed to have sittings in the future at any time, except such as are in special grief for the recent loss of near friends or relatives.

As to the general wisdom of this management by Imperator, I have myself personally no doubt. It would, however, take me too long to explain my view of the situation at length in a letter. I refer you again to section 7 of my report in Part XXXIII for some suggestions in this direction, which I expect to work out more fully in later reports.

From my own point of view, Mrs. Piper's organism as a medium of communication from the other side to this represents an extremely delicate machine, which is likely to get out of order unless the utmost care is taken as regards the conditions. This is not realized by the ordinary person; and yet we know well that even in cases which are probably enormously less complex, absolute exclusion is necessary. There are, *e. g.*, machines used in physical experiments which are isolated in such a way that observers are not permitted to even enter

the room in which the machine is placed. And yet persons who are completely ignorant of the conditions, both general and special, under which the communications through Mrs. Piper come, actually feel aggrieved that they cannot in succession try their apprentice hands and the apprentice hands of their spirit friends at the working of such a complicated and delicate machine as Mrs. Piper's organism.

Yours sincerely,

R. HODGSON.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- CARPENTER, EDWARD. A visit to a Gñani. From Adams Peak to Elephanta. Alice B. Stockham & Co., Chicago. Price, \$1.00.
- CARUS, PAUL. The soul of man. An investigation of the facts of physiological and experimental psychology. 2d ed. With 182 illustrations and diagrams. Open Court Pub. Co., Chicago, 1900. pp. 482 (The Religion of Science Library, No. 41. Price, 75 cts.).
- COE, GEORGE A. The spiritual life. Studies in the science of religion. Eaton & Mains, New York, 1900. pp. 279. Price, \$1.00.
- FOLKMAR, DANIEL. Leçons d'anthropologie philosophique. Ses applications à la morale positive. Schleicher Frères, Paris, 1900. pp. 336. Price, Fcs. 7.50.
- FOUILLÉE, ALFRED. La France au point de vue moral. Félix Alcan, Paris, 1900. pp. 416. Price, Fcs. 7.50.
- LEVY-BRUHL, L. La philosophie d'Auguste Comte. Félix Alcan, Paris, 1900. pp. 417. Price, Fcs. 7.50.
- MONCALM, M. L'origine de la pensée et de la parole. Félix Alcan, Paris, 1900. pp. 316. Price, Fcs. 5.
- ROYER, MADAME CLÉMENCE. La constitution du monde. Dynamique des atomes, Nouveau principes de philosophie naturelle. Schleicher Frères, Paris, 1900. pp. 800. Price, Fcs. 15.
- SOLLIER, PAUL. Le problème de la mémoire. Essai de psychomécanique. Félix Alcan, Paris, 1900. pp. 218. Price, Fcs. 3.50.
- STARBUCK, EDWIN D. The psychology of religion. An empirical study of the growth of religious consciousness. With a preface by Wm. James. Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1899. pp. 423. Price, \$1.50.
- SWEDENBORG, EMANUEL. On Tremulation. Translated from the photo-lithographed copy of the Swedish MS., by C. Th. Odhner. Massachusetts New-Church Union, Boston, 1899. pp. 79. Price, 50 cts.
- TANON, L. L'évolution du droit et la conscience sociale. Félix Alcan, Paris, 1900. pp. 166. Price, Fcs. 2.50.
- THILLY, FRANK. Introduction to ethics. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1900. pp. 346. Price, \$1.25.